



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Presidential Ponderings

As one of my first official duties, let me thank Bob Burton, N4PQX, for the great leadership job he's done for the last two years. With his leadership, we've had a number of creative ideas generated by our club members in the last couple of years and I hope our members will continue to come up with winners. Also, we need to thank Gary Dixon, K4MQG, who, as Secretary/Treasurer kept us fiscally viable and maintained all the membership records.

As a result of the election at the December meeting, Jack Guion, W4JG, will be our new Vice-President and Ken Cannaday, W4NZC, will continue as our Secretary/Treasurer. Ken replaced Gary Dixon when Gary took on the duties of DXCC field checker last year. As a result of the changes in by-laws, the Net Manager position was replaced with a title of Packet Cluster Manager since this is the way we communicate DX spots now. Joe Simpkins, K4MD, will be the Packet Cluster Manager. Also, John Scott, K8YC, continues as the Newsletter Manager for the coming year. Our Webmaster is Jerry Moore, AE4PB. He keeps the website current and maintains our email addresses lists in conjunction with our Secretary-Treasurer.

N4PQX	Bob Burton	President
W4WNT	Bill Turner	Vice-Pres.
W4NZC	Ken Cannaday	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Sysop
AE4PB	Jerry Moore	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

A little bit about your new president. I'm an Ohio State graduate (MSc in Chemistry), board certified in Occupational Safety and Industrial Hygiene and employed by Clariant Corporation in Environmental, Health and Safety. I'm married (to Donna, KD4QGW) and we have two children and three grandchildren. My background in ham radio goes back to New Jersey in 1972 where I was first licensed and has progressed to an Extra Class license, which I've held for three years. When I moved to the Charlotte area in 1990, my total DX countries confirmed was about 36. As a result of the encouragement and advice of the folks I met in this club, my total now is over 200 countries confirmed and I've qualified for both Phone and CW DXCC. As a result of ham radio activities, I've also become a ARRL Volunteer Examiner and act as the "W" card sorter for the QSL Bureau. I also serve as a Director for the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society. My neighborhood is "tower challenged", so I've been operating with verticals and wire antennas.

As for club business, there is the matter of dues...they are due. If you have changed your e-mail or physical address in the last year, please include this information with your check to Ken. Jerry Moore and John Scott have set up the Pileup on the CDXA website as an Adobe Acrobat file, so if you are internet active, let Ken or Jerry know that you can receive the Pileup through the net. The "on-line" version is now identical to the printed version with the added

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CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA Young Mountain	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.075 MHz (9600 bits/second)
Digipeater near Wingate, NC	144.91 MHz (DXWIN)	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Shoney's, 355 Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC (704-525-4395)	

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advantage that colors are included in the on-line version. If you choose to pay your dues at the Charlotte Hamfest, please give us a check so a record of your payment is created.

On January 7, the Post Office will raise the first ounce first class rate by 1 cent, thus an ounce of QSL cards will cost 34 cents to mail. Please send some 1 cent stamps to the bureau to cover cards you have on file. Also be sure to use 34 cent stamps on future envelopes you send. The second ounce remains at 22 cents.

Tim O'Rourke, KG4CHX, is the Forum Chairman for the Charlotte Hamfest and Computer Fair which will be held on March 10 and 11. He is organizing a couple of great DX forums as well as forums on QRP and PSK. Roger Burt, N4ZC, is arranging a visit by IN3QBR, Mauro, in February. Mauro will discuss his operation in Laos. More on this next month.

As I said earlier, this group has a lot of very creative folks and I'm sure they will continue to come up with great ideas for 2001. Let your officers know what new items you'd like to see added to the list.

—73, Bill Turner, W4WNT

AA4ZZ Team 6th in Nation in VHF Contest

The results of the 2000 June VHF QSO Party are on page 105 of the January 2001 issue of QST. The AA4ZZ team finished sixth in the nation in the limited multioperator class. Due to six meter openings 3 stations in the west were above them. There's a picture of Ken (K4DXA) "hamming" it up for the camera in the QST article. Members of the team (in callsign alphabetical order) were:

AA4S	Ron Bailey
AA4ZZ	Paul Trotter
K2SD	Scott Douglass
K4DXA	Ken Boyd
W4MW	Roger Webb
W4SI	Rodney Harper

Their score was the highest of all efforts in the fourth call area, also. Great team effort, guys!!

CQWW Intraclub Contest Results

Here are the results of the CDXA intraclub contest for the CQ Worldwide contest for both Phone and CW:

Phone

Class	Callsign	Name	Points
Unlimited			
Winner	KZ2I	S. Sullivan	1,682,450
Runnerup	N4PQX	R. Burton	1,303,020
Unlimited-Asst.			
Winner	W4WTB	W. Taylor	943,325
Runnerup	—	—	—
Limited			
Winner	W4SI	R. Harper	499,356
Runnerup	W4WNT	W. Turner	272,874
Limited, Asst.			
Winner	N1GC	G. Colborne	286,330
Runnerup	W3GQ	P. Sturpe	219,337

CW

Class	Callsign	Name	Points
Unlimited			
Winner	WA8WV	D. Ellis	852,996
Runnerup	—	—	—
Unlimited-Asst.			
Winner	N4ZC	R. Burt	963,300
Runnerup	W4NZC	K. Cannaday	586,194
Limited			
Winner	W4SI	R. Harper	160,839
Runnerup	AA4R	W. Parris	80,510
Limited, Asst.			
Winner	K2SD	S. Douglass	21,894
Runnerup	W3GQ	P. Sturpe	N/A

Congratulations to all on the fine job in contesting. (W4SI, with 499,356 points in the Limited SSB class came close to winning the "sandbag award". One more QSO, Rodney??? Run out of time??? Just kidding, of course. —Editor)

Postal Rates Going Up

The cost of an International Reply Coupon (IRC) will increase from \$1.05 to \$1.75 on January 7, 2001. A one ounce letter sent via air mail to anywhere in the world (except Canada and Mexico) will cost 80 cents. A two ounce air mail letter will cost anywhere from \$1.55 to \$1.70, depending on where it is going. The complete rate schedule is available on the USPS web site, <http://www.usps.gov/news/2001rate.htm>.

CDXA Included in New Ham Website

Your editor received a note from the Webmaster (K8CX) of a ham radio website indicating that CDXA was now included as a link in the website. I visited the site and found it quite interesting. The URL is:

<http://hamgallery.com>

Some of the interesting features are the inclusion of soundclips from a number of DXpeditions for years past, organized by year. Both CW and Phone soundclips are present. I also found an extensive photo gallery.

The site also includes:

- Free Ham Classified Ad space
- Code copying tests, including answers, "brag list"
- QSL Card Gallery
- Webclusters
- DX and Ham news

You will want to visit this site and bookmark it for future reference.

Earth from A0-40!

Well, not exactly, but the headline got you to read this far, didn't it? Bob Thomas sent me the URL below. It shows a big JPEG file (about 540K) of the entire earth at night pieced together from various photos taken by NASA. I think you'll marvel at how our "home" looks from outer space at night.

http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/image/0011/earthlights_dmisp_big.jpg

Enter the URL exactly as written above. If the view doesn't impress you, at least the thought of all the energy needed to illuminate our cities to the extent shown will surely boggle your mind.

Hail Solar Activity

Ham radio operators are not the only beneficiaries of our current sunspot cycle. John Russell, a photographer in Alaska writes, "Last night (12:00 to 01:30 am local time on the 28th of November) I saw the most fantastic aurora I've ever seen. I couldn't see ANY stars through the glare. Beautiful displays lasted several hours into the morning. During these shots I could read the LCD on my camera; it lit the landscape up brighter than a full moon." Typical photo settings: Nikon N90s camera; 35mm Nikkor 2.0 lens; 6 second exposures on Fuji NHG II Pro800 film.

John posted his photos on the World Wide Web for all to enjoy at URL:

http://www.spaceweather.com/aurora/gallery_26nov00.html

One of the more spectacular views looking like the typical "curtains" you've often seen depicting the aurora borealis is shown below.



(Photo used with permission of John Russell.)

Winston-Salem Contest Team, W4WS has Good CQWW-SSB Outing

Henry Heidtmann, N4VHK, writes, "The W4WS Contest Team from W-S had their best ever CQWW SSB outing this year—currently 3rd in "4 land" and 15th in US in M/S Claimed. We always fly our CDXA flag." Operators were: N4VHK, KU4BP, WB4MSG, KT4CD, N0KTY, and KE4CPO. Pushing a Force 12 C3E up to 58 feet helped the team to their 4,069,000 points. Well done, Henry and team!

Christmas Party at The Branding Iron, December 14, 2000



Jim Miller and Ron Bailey peek down the table to see what that guy with the camera is doing.



Rodney Harper, Bill Turner, and Bob Burton enjoy their intraclub contest award. Roger Burt and Don Daso were recognized for their efforts in Sint Maarten (PJ7) and St. Martin (FS), respectively.



Incoming or outgoing? Retiring President Bob Burton and Sec./Treas. Gary Dixon pass the baton to incoming President Bill Turner, Sec./Treas. Ken Cannaday, and Newsletter Editor John Scott.



Incoming VP Jack Guion and John Scott get some last minute organizational tips from outgoing President Bob Burton.



The Miller's and the Dixon's share a little comraderie.



A few chips and sips by Bob Southworth, Ron Bailey, and Joe Blackwell helped during the "attitude adjustment hour".

AA4S GOES WEST - PART II

By Ron Bailey, AA4S

(This is a continuation of an article written by Ron Bailey about his recent trip to the western United States. Part I appeared in the November 2000 issue of THE PILEUP available on the CDXA website at <http://www.cdxa.org>.)

The rest of Wednesday, 8/23, was spent sightseeing in the Badlands and visiting Mount Rushmore. The drive from Rapid City, SD to Billings, MT on Thursday was uneventful except for nearly running out of gas. I found coasting uphill extremely difficult! Speaking of gasoline, prices ranged from \$1.39 to \$1.65 as I went westward. Octane on regular was only 85 versus 87 back east and at one point my gas mileage dropped from 23 mpg to 15 mpg.

I arrived at the IRCA convention Thursday evening where I spent the next three days making new friends and enjoying the company of the 17 members (out of about 200) who were able to attend. Activities included tours of transmitter and antenna sites of local AM/TV/FM stations, an auction of memorabilia (Tee shirts, coffee mugs, etc.), and general discussions on the future of the broadcasting industry. When Sunday morning arrived I was packed and ready to begin the long drive back to Lima, OH.

I left Billings and headed southwest on route 212 over Beartooth Pass at 10,947 feet elevation (which may explain the poor gas mileage) and into Yellowstone Park. This was by far the most scenic part of the trip. I was disappointed, however, in that the only wildlife seen consisted of about 30 smelly old bison and one pelican on Pelican Lake. Sunday night was spent in Cody, Wyoming where I had the best filet mignon I ever tasted at the Irma Buffalo Bill Hotel. I attended a rodeo later that night.

From there it was drive, drive, drive through eastern Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana to Lima, Ohio with overnight stops in Casper, WY; Cozad, NE (where?); and Davenport, IA. By the time I reached Lima, I had logged 4,247 miles and 561 QSOs from 44 different counties! (It's amazing what one gets himself into while waiting for a workable, legal P5 to appear!)

Forty-six of the more than 700 NRC members attended this get-together of a club which is in its 68th year in existence. I assisted with erecting the inverted vee antenna which was used to put WNRC-1610 kHz. on for

the weekend. The antenna was run from the roof of the Hampton Inn—vee-beam fashion—to two light poles on the far side of the parking lot. It was 145 feet on each leg. The SWR was about 1.5/1 and the station's 25 watts of AM were heard as far as 20 miles away. I don't know if any reports of skip reception were received, but I wouldn't be surprised!

Convention activities hosted by Fred Vobbe (W8H DU) and his wife Nancy also included the usual station tours, a visit to Fair Radio, club auction (usual junk!), plus a week-end long hospitality suite. All in all, a very enjoyable weekend. By now it was Sunday morning and time to drive the 573 miles home.

Yes, the trip involved a lot of driving, but a friend of mine, K4GLU, travels close to 12,000 miles a year on similar trips including a jaunt to Newfoundland for the purpose of medium wave DXing. He and a group of 4 or 5 other MWLs erect K9AY loops, throw 3000 ft.-long beverages out on the beach at Cappyhayden and, on one occasion, logged 130 different countries in the space of less than two weeks. Such stations as Angola (945 kHz.), Senegal (765 kHz.), and Mozambique (1206 kHz.) are commonly heard! Two years ago, I was invited to participate, but was unable to get away. This adventure is getting serious consideration should I be invited again. Thanks for listening. Very 73, AA4S

Amateur Radio "Purity" Test

Here's a little test you can take to find out your "purity" as an Amateur Radio Operator. Go to the web site URL indicated below and take the purity test.

<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/1060/hamtest.html>

Beware, the less "pure" you are the more "ham" you have in you. Hopefully, you have the ability to laugh at yourself just a bit. This little quiz was sent to me by my daughter who lives in the Detroit area. I took the test. After you've taken your test, we can share our results if you wish.

I hereby make the following offer. I will buy lunch at Shoney's on January 24 for the CDXA member who is least "pure". In "ham" tradition, however, the bill cannot exceed \$15.00!!!

The Back Page

N4ZC advises CDXA members that “Mauro”, IN3QBR, will be coming to town in early February. He is recently returning from a DXpedition to Laos where he operated as XW3QBR. N4ZC is trying to arrange an evening meeting at “The Woodshed” to have Mauro address the membership. The Woodshed is not open on Monday evenings, so the anticipated time is Tuesday, February 13 if Mauro can extend his stay after attending a Florida ham convention. Since the Pileup will not be published until after the meeting date, an email/telephone chain or PacketCluster announcement will be used to get the word out. You may wish to block the date into your calendars.

Coming contests:

January 20-22: ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes. See December, 2000 QST, Page 112

January 26-28: CQ WW 160-Meter CW DX Contest For rules see: www.cq-amateur.com/160rules99.htm

REMINDER: CDXA dues in the amount of \$30 are due to the treasurer, Ken Cannaday NOW. Please make Ken's job easier by remitting promptly. Ken's address is shown below on the return address portion of the newsletter.

Ken Cannaday, W4NZC
1929 Ewing Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28203

w4nzc@att.net

First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W4NZC at once, please.